prevailing Above Poverty Line prices of wheat *i.e.* Rs.610/- per quintal would not make it viable for them though these rates are substantially lower than the economic cost of wheat.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Tariff Rate Quota for maize has been increased and fixed to 4,50,000 tons during 2002- 2003.

(e) During 9th Plan, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Accelerated Maize Development Programme" under Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize in 26 States. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided for adoption of latest technologies, training of farmers/officers and production of good quality seeds. During 10th Plan an integrated scheme on increasing production and productivity of maize is envisaged.

Rural Warehousing Scheme

†2513. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a Rural Warehousing Scheme, called Gramin Bhandaran Yojana;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision so far, in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outlines thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated a new Central Sector Scheme for Construction/Renovation/Expansion of Rural Godowns (Grameen Bhandaran yojana) to provide to the farmers the facility of storage, pledge financing and other marketing services. The aim of the scheme is to enable small farmers to enhance their holding capacity in order to sell their produce at remunerative prices and to avoid distress sales by providing them with the facility of pledge loan at lower rate of interest. The scheme envisages grading and standardisation of agriculture produce at the time of storage so that the receipts issued by the godown keeper can be used as a negotiable instrument as and when legal status is accorded to such receipts. Under the scheme, subsidy of 25% on the capital cost of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

construction of the godown would be provided after the completion of the project. For persons belonging to SC/ST and hilly areas and North Eastern State the quantum of subsidy is 33.33%. The scheme has been approved on 26.2.2002. Under the Scheme, new storage capacity of 18.50 lakh tonnes and modernisation of cooperative godowns of 1.50 lakhs tonnes has been envisaged. A sum of Rs.90.00 crores has been allocated for implementation of the scheme, by March 31st, 2003.

Development of Golden Rice at A.P. Agricultural University

2514. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists at the Directorate of Rice Research at A.P. Agricultural University, Hyderabad are working on a project to develop Indian variety of vitamin 'A' enriched Golden Rice which would help in preventing blindness, particularly among the children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this project is being financed/funded by IARI, Pusa;

(d) whether more strains of rice, enriched with vitamin 'A' are being developed in research centres of other Agricultural Universities, including IARI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad a unit of Indian Council of Agricultural Research has submitted a research project to Department of Biotechnology for developing vitamin 'A' enriched Golden Rice Indica varieties. The likely project at the Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad will be basically using the transgenic Taipei-309 line as donor to transfer the Beta carotene biosynthetic genes into the Indica rice varieties like Swarna, Tellahamsa, Vijetha and Sarjoo-52 using molecular markers. However, no such project are being carried out at A.P. Agricultural University, Hyderabad.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Besides Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad, Indian